

REMARKS

The allowance of claims 11, 16 - 19 and 23 is acknowledged.

By the present amendment, the only claims under rejection, i.e., claims 2, 4 - 10, 12 - 14 and 20 - 22 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Thus, as to the rejection of claims 2 and 4 - 8 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kuwashiro (Patent No. US 5,945,984); the rejection of claims 9 and 14 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuwashiro (Patent No. US 5,945,984) in view of Ogawa (Patent No. US 6,680,759); and the rejection of claims 10, 12, 13 and 20 - 22 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kusashiro (Patent No. US 5,945,984) in view of Ogawa (Patent No. US 6,680,759) and further in view of Hayakawa et al (Patent No. US 6,172,732); also such rejections have been obviated by the cancellation of the aforementioned claims, and applicants submit that a discussion of the cited art in relation thereto is considered unnecessary.

Since only allowed claims 11, 16 - 19 and 23 remain in this application, applicants submit that this application should now be in condition for allowance, and issuance of a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli,

Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 501.43231X00),
and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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